

ness, conduct and organization of the various public offices of the province, and to report what improvements might be made in the mode of conducting the public business. The House of Assembly have indicated the sort of persons that ought to be employed in this very important and delicate duty, by the terms *fit* and *disinterested*, but when these terms are taken and deliberately applied to the majority of the persons selected for the duty in question, the experiment in all cases in which we have seen it tried, produces a very violent, and apparently irresistible excitement of the risible faculties. This excitement, however, will soon be allayed, in every well disposed person, by taking into view the great and manifest damage which the administration suffers from such an act, —especially in the present state of the public mind. As to the disinterestedness of the commissioners, it need only be stated, that most of them are connected with the government in some way or other, and as to the fitness of such of them as may be thought disinterested, it is sufficient to mention that two of them are Episcopalian ministers. The appointment to such an office of ministers of any denomination, seems altogether indefensible, under any circumstances—and in the present case, it can hardly fail on the one hand to strengthen the feelings of jealousy so generally entertained in regard to that inordinate ambition of the Episcopal church; and, on the other hand to foster and encourage that ambition. —The Upper Canada Banks resumed specie payments on the 1st November.—The result of the religious census of this province, so far as the returns have been made, is as follows:—

Episcopalians.....	79,754
Presbyterians.....	73,383
Methodists.....	61,033
Roman Catholics.....	43,029
Baptists.....	12,963
Twenty-three other denominations.....	22,306
No Profession.....	34,769

Making a total of 332,733, which is short of the entire population by 67,553, or nearly one-sixth, the total population being 400,346.—Since the foregoing was written, the Governor General has arrived in Toronto, and assumed the administration.

NOVA SCOTIA—NEW BRUNSWICK—WEST INDIES.—The Assembly of the first mentioned province having sent delegates to Great Britain to seek certain changes in the constitution and administration of the colony, the objects and issue of their mission are thus stated:—They complained, 1st of the composition of the two Councils. 2nd, of the Civil List and the terms of the surrender of the Casual and Territorial Revenue. 3rd, they claimed the combining of the Customs and Excise into one department, and the extending of the number of free ports; the latter of which has been granted, and a despatch sent to the Lieut. Governor on the former. They also claim the regulation of the post office, and a bill on this subject is to be again submitted by the Imperial Government to all the North American Colonies. In the Land Granting Department also, a Commissioner is to be placed in each county; actual settlers are to be allowed to purchase

the lands on which they have settled and made improvements at the value of wild lands, and the upset price of lands generally may be reduced to 1s. The enquiry instituted by the government of New Brunswick into some recent troubles on the disputed territory, in regard to an American post on the Aroostook, has terminated in the public censure, by the Lieutenant Governor, of an officer of the colonial militia for impropriety and indiscretion of conduct in the matter, and a proclamation prohibiting the cutting of timber, by the colonists, within that territory, which former proclamations have not entirely put a stop to. The British commissioners are still engaged in the survey of the disputed tract. In the West Indies, the disorders and difficulties produced by the transition from slavery to freedom, seem to be gradually abating. Much good was done in the island of Barbadoes, by the exertions of certain commissioners appointed by the governor, Sir Evan McGregor, for the purpose of lecturing the dissatisfied and refractory portion of the peasantry. "The deluded people," it is said, "as if eager to catch at some opportunity of having their conduct fairly held out to them, mustered in large numbers at the appointed places, listened eagerly and respectfully to the advice given them, acknowledged their error, and promised implicit obedience in future to the salutary admonitions which were offered them." The consequence has been, that the agricultural labourers, with a few exceptions, behave themselves peaceably and orderly, and it is confidently anticipated, that "as they advance in moral and intellectual improvement, they will be found more cheerfully and readily to assent and conform to those habits of industry, which they will then plainly see are as essential to their own interest and welfare as to the prosperity and welfare of their employers." The following statement of the amounts of the staple produce of the above named island, for 1833 and 1839, will give a distinct view of the deficiency for the present year, which is by no means larger than might have been expected, nor so large as the vague accounts that have been in circulation have led the public to anticipate:—

	Hogsheads.
1833, Sugar produced.....	24,848
1839, do.	20,726
Deficiency in 1839,....	4,122
	Punchons.
1833, Molasses.....	6,915
1839, do.	4,413
Deficiency in 1839,....	2,497
	Packages.
1833, Cotton.....	314
1839, do.	195
Deficiency in 1839,....	119
1833, Ginger.....	3,457
1839, do.	1,785
Deficiency in 1839,....	1,672

GREAT BRITAIN.—It is again very generally reported that the marriage of the Queen with Prince Albert of Cobourg, will take place, and that at no distant date. He is nephew to King Leopold and the Dutchess of Kent who are said to be the prin-